



State of Utah

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August 20, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, Rancho Equipment Services, Topaz Valley Limestone,
M/023/022, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 17, 2001

Time of Inspection: 8:35 to ~9:30 a.m.

Participants: Bob Thomas, Rancho Equipment Services, Tom Munson and Paul Baker,
DOGM

Purpose of the inspection:

To examine reclamation success on areas seeded in the fall of 2000.

Observations:

From all appearances, the operator did a good job grading the site, amending the soil, and seeding, but there is very little desirable vegetation. The area blends with surrounding areas, and it was left somewhat, though not extremely, rough. The annual report indicates manure was applied at a rate of two tons per acre, and 200 pounds per acre of nitrogen fertilizer was also added.

There have been no indications of extremely adverse soil conditions, such as salt crusts or the presence of salt-tolerant vegetation in the area, but the soil is coarse textured and contains enough rock fragments that water holding capacity is probably low.

There were some signs of erosion, but it was not significant. It did not appear any sediment had left the site.

The site has a fair amount of halogeton, scattered forage kochia plants, and a few fourwing saltbush plants. Cover from desirable species is less than one percent. We believe the problem with the vegetation is simply that the weather has been so dry.

We took several photographs of the site, and they are attached.

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Conclusions and Recommendations:

Mr. Thomas recognized the need to reseed, but he is hoping to reduce his costs by applying a less expensive seed mix. The seed mix that was planted contains species adapted to the site, but there are a few introduced species that may establish better than some of the species used in the first seeding. The new recommended seed mix is attached to this report. While this is not an extremely diverse seed mix, it probably offers the best chance for establishing desirable vegetation on this site.

Forage kochia should be broadcast seeded, but the other species could either be broadcast or drill seeded. If the area is broadcast seeded, the crust on the surface would first need to be broken by disking, harrowing, ripping, gouging, or some other means. It is important that the site be left as rough as possible for water retention.

jb
Attachment: seed mix recommendation
cc: Bob Thomas
m23-22-ins.doc

Recommended Seed Mix
Topaz Valley Limestone Quarry

M/023/022
August 20, 2001

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pounds Pure Live Seed/Acre (broadcast)</u>
Indian Ricegrass	3
Shadscale	3
Fourwing Saltbush	4
Forage Kochia	1
“Hycrest” Crested Wheatgrass	4



